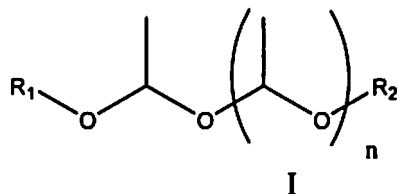


II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) An acetaldehyde precursor comprising formula I



wherein R_1 and R_2 are selected such that both are $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$, or both are linear, branched or cyclic alkyl, aryl, alcohol or sugar residues, and $n = \{1\} \underline{3}$ -10, with the proviso that, when R_1 and R_2 are selected such that both are $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$, $n = \{1, 2\} \underline{3}$ or 4.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) An acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 1 wherein n is ~~1, 2 or~~ 3 and R_1 and R_2 are both $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$.

Claim 3. (Original) An acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 1 wherein n is 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 and the linear, branched or cyclic alkyl, aryl, alcohol or sugar residues are water-soluble.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) A method comprising utilizing an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 1 as a flavoring or fragrance agent.

Claim 5. (Previously presented) A method of preparing a flavoring or fragrance formulation comprising utilizing an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 1 as a component of the flavoring or fragrance formulation.

Claim 6. (Previously presented) A flavor or a fragrance formulation comprising an

acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 1.

Claim 7. (Previously presented) A consumable product comprising an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 1.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) The flavor or fragrance composition according to claim 6 wherein the acetaldehyde precursor is one in which ~~n=1, n=2 or~~ n=3, and R₁ and R₂ both -CH₂CH₃.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) The consumable product according to claim 7 wherein the acetaldehyde precursor is one in which ~~n=1, n=2 or~~ n=3, and R₁ and R₂ both -CH₂CH₃.

Claim 10. (Previously presented) A method comprising utilizing an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 2 as a flavoring or fragrance agent.

Claim 11. (Previously presented) A method of preparing a flavoring or fragrance formulation comprising utilizing an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 2 as a component of the flavoring or fragrance formulation.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) A flavor or a fragrance formulation comprising an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 2.

Claim 13. (Currently amended) The flavor or fragrance composition according to claim 12 wherein the acetaldehyde precursor is one in which ~~n=1, n=2 or~~ n=3, and R₁ and R₂ both -CH₂CH₃.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) A consumable product comprising an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 2.

- Claim 15. (Currently amended) The consumable product according to claim 14 wherein the acetaldehyde precursor is one in which ~~n=1, n=2 or~~ n=3, and R₁ and R₂ both -CH₂CH₃.
- Claim 16. (Previously presented) A method comprising utilizing an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 3 as a flavoring or fragrance agent.
- Claim 17. (Previously presented) A method of preparing a flavoring or fragrance formulation comprising utilizing an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 3 as a component of the flavoring or fragrance formulation.
- Claim 18. (Previously presented) A flavor or a fragrance formulation comprising an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 3.
- Claim 19. (Currently amended) The flavor or fragrance composition according to claim 18 wherein the acetaldehyde precursor is one in which ~~n=1, n=2 or~~ n=3, and R₁ and R₂ both -CH₂CH₃.
- Claim 20. (Previously presented) A consumable product comprising an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 3.
- Claim 21. (Currently amended) The consumable product according to claim 20 wherein the acetaldehyde precursor is one in which ~~n=1, n=2 or~~ n=3, and R₁ and R₂ both -CH₂CH₃.